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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /091 W
---------- 085486
R 121011Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3285
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12900

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR VN
SUBJ: DRV 30 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS: INTERNATIONAL INTRIGUE

REF: TOKYO 11788 (NOTAL)

1. HANOI'S LOA DONG PARTY LEADERS REPORTEDLY CONTACTED SOVIET COMMUNIST PARY OFFICIALS AT VERY HIGH LEVEL TO DISCOURAGE MOSCOW FROM SENDING TOP FIGURE TO HANOI FOR 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. FONOFF ANALYSIS DIVDIR HANABUSA GLEANED THIS TIDBIT FROM A JAPANESE SOCIALIST HE HAS FOUND RELIABLE IN THE PAST WHO VISITED HANOI JUST PRIOR TO THE CELEBRATION. ACCORDING TO
THE SOCIALIST, NORTH VIETNAMESE FEARED THAT PRESENCE OF LUMINARIES FROM BOTH MOSCOW AND PEKING FOR CELEBRATIONS MIGHT TRANSPLANT SINO-SOVIET RIVALRY TO HANOI, DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM INTENDED FOCUS OF CELEBRATIONS, AND POSSIBLY HARM HANOI'S RELATIONS WITH ONE OR THE OTHER COMMUNIST SUPERPOWER. THIS WOULD ALSO EXPLAIN WHY JAPANESE MEBASSY
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REPORT THAT KOSYGIN MIGHT ATTEND DRV CELEBRATION (REFTEL)

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PROVED WRONG.

2. HANABUSA WAS ALSO TOLD THAT JAPAN'S COMMUNIST PARTY (JCP) DELEGATION AS WELL AS DELEGATIONS TO ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FROM INDIA, YOGOSLAVIA, YEMEN, AND ONE OTHER NATION, RESERVED SEATS ON AEROFLOT FROM VIENTIANE TO HANOI SEPT 1, THE DAY PRIOR TO OPENING OF CELEBRATIONS. AT LAST MINUTE, AEROFLOT APPARENTLY TOLD JCP, YEMEN, AND UNIDENTIFIED THIRD DELEGATION THAT SEATS WERE UNAVAILABLE. INDIANS AND YUGOSLAVS, HOWEVER, BOARDED FLIGHT. AFTER THIS EPISODE, DRV AMBASSADOR HIEN IN VIENTIANE ARRANGED FOR FRENCH EMBASSY PLANE TO HAUL THE THREE DELEGATIONS TO HANOI SEPT 2, WHERE, HANABUSA REPORTED, THEY WERE GIVEN A ROUSING WELCOME.

3. COMMENT: ONE COULD SPECULATE ENDLESSLY ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF HANOI'S EFFORTS TO LOWER SOVIET PROFILE, BUT REPORT, IF TRUE, SUGGESTS THAT DRV CAN BE FRANK WITH SOVIETS AND FIND THEM RESPONSIVE. WE HAVE DIFFICULTY ENVISAGING HANOI'S MAKING SIMILAR PITCH TO PEKING THESE DAYS AND GETTING AWAY WITH IT EASILY. PRESUMED SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO COMPLY WITH HANOI'S WISHES MAY REFLECT SENSITIVITY IN MOSCOW TO PEKING'S CHARGES THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE ATTEMPTING TO REPLACE US INFLUENCE IN INDOCHINA WITH THEIR OWN FORM OF IMPERIALISM.

4. REGARDING RESERVATIONS ON AEROFLOT, WE ASSUME THAT HANABUSA INTERPRETS THE CANCELLATION OF SEATS FOR THE JCP AND YEMENIS AS A REFLECTION OF SOVIET DISSATISFACTION WITH POLICIES OF BOTH.
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